



Rock Point Church

Ron Merrell | 8.17.25

John 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 25:34 (NLT)

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.'

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

⁴¹ Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'

Why would a loving God send people to hell?

“A LOVING GOD”

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. – Romans 5:8 (NLT)

A God of judgment can also be a God of love.

“SEND PEOPLE”

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desire. - Romans 1:24 (NLT)

²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. - Romans 1:28 (NLT)

We actively distance ourselves from God, and eventually God ‘gives us over’ to what our hearts really desire.

“HELL”

⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s

Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand! - Matthew 13:40-43 (NLT)

- Marry me, and bring all your old lovers.
- Marry me, or I'll kill you.
- Marry me, or I'll lock you in the basement.
- Marry me, or go your own way.

Spending eternity disconnected from the Source of all love, goodness, and joy would be hell enough.

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. What are some common cultural ideas people have about hell, and how do they compare to what the Bible says?
3. Read Romans 5:8. How does the cross show us that God's love and justice work together, rather than against each other?

4. Why do you think it is difficult for many people to reconcile God's love with the reality of hell?
5. Read Romans 1:24-28. What does it mean that God "gives us over" to our desires, and how do we see that play out in everyday life?
6. How does C.S. Lewis's idea that hell grows inside us unless we deal with it help you understand the seriousness of sin?
7. How is separation from God worse than any physical description of hell we might imagine?
8. Why is it important to see that God doesn't force anyone into hell, but allows people to choose their own way apart from Him?
9. Read 2 Peter 3:9. What does this verse reveal about God's heart toward people and His desire for their future?
10. How does understanding the reality of hell shape the way you think about your relationship with God, and how might it influence the way you share your faith with others?